GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3852
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
LINKING OF VILLAGES THROUGH TELECOM SERVICE
Kripalani Shri Srichand

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit fixed for the scheme of the Government to link all the villages through telecommunications;

(b) whether there is no telecommunication system in the villages under Tehsils of Disrict Chittorgarh in Rajasthan so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which telecommunication system is likely to be set up in all the Tehsils falling under District of Chittorgarh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Shanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November,2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, laying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 29. 2.2008, 53,073 VPTs have been provided by BSNL and the remaining VPTs have been planned to be provided by December, 2008.

(b) & (c) In Rajasthan State, out of 1,159 villages of tehsils of District Chittorgarh, 1,147 villages have been provided with VPTs by USOF. In addition, a scheme has recently been launched by USOF to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 11 infrastructure sites (towers) in Chittorgarh District for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing mobile coverage. These sites are likely to be commissioned by December, 2008.

(d) All the 13 tehsils of District Chittorgarh have already been covered by BSNL's network.